



# COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

## PARENTAL INFORMATION SHEET

This information is being given to you so that you will have an understanding of the role of the CASA.

The CASA is a trained volunteer who will represent the best interest of your child (or children) in juvenile court hearings.

The CASA is appointed by the judge but DOES NOT replace your worker from the Department of Human Services (or Juvenile Court). The CASA DOES NOT replace your child's attorney. It is your responsibility to cooperate with the CASA. The CASA has been ordered to work on this case and can only end involvement when the judge so orders.

The CASA will speak up for your child (or children) in court to let the judge know what appears to be in the child's best interest. CASAs are not mentors or service providers. They do not take children on outings or trips, or give the family food, clothing, or other direct assistance. CASAs can help locate services to provide these things, if necessary.

What you can expect the CASA to do on your child's case is as follows:

THE CASA...

...is appointed by the judge to represent your child's best interest when the case comes to court, and will continue on the case until closed by the judge.

...makes home visits (announced and unannounced) and will visit with the child (or children) in the home or, when in placement, outside of the home.

...maintains contact with DHS worker(s), and anyone who has information about the children (therapists, teachers, relatives, etc.).

...conducts an independent assessment of the case, and writes a report for the judge containing recommendations for the child.

...contacts community resources and services that have been working with your family to receive reports on progress or problems.

...will call or visit with you from time to time to discuss the plans for your child, and help answer questions you may have regarding the case plan.

...maintains contact with the child's attorney and Guardian Ad Litem on the case.

...attends all hearings on the case; and staffings when possible.

**YOUR CASA VOLUNTEER IS: [enter name]**

YOU MAY REACH THE CASA BY

TELEPHONING: [insert numbers]

THE LOCAL AREA CASA COORDINATOR IS: [insert coordinator]

TELEPHONE: [phone]